

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Daily Mastery

By Walter E. Myer

DO you ever stop, when you are worried or irritated, to turn an analytical eye upon the object of your worry or irritation to see just what it really means to you? Sometimes such an act of analysis may not bring immediate consolation. The object may really be big and menacing. It may threaten your security or happiness, not for a day but for a year or a lifetime. In that case the offending circumstance must be examined further. Something must be done or planned, if possible, to lessen the impending danger. Your only satisfaction for the moment may be that which comes when thinking and fretting are transformed into positive action.

But it is a reasonably safe assumption that few of our worries or irritations are of such a formidable nature. Unless we are blessed with an unusually calm and unruffled disposition we are likely to find ourselves upset at frequent intervals by incidents of no permanent significance whatever. We worry about small reverses, the effects of which are certain to wear themselves out in a short time. We are angered by acts which cannot possibly affect our well-being. We spend sleepless nights worrying about possible developments which, if they occurred, would not alter our condition to any considerable extent.

When one is irritated by some such happenings, let him ask, "How will this thing which disturbs me so much today look to me next week or next month or next year?" In nine times out of ten, he will answer to himself that the incident will be forgotten in a week or a year.

Some people are forever being deflected from the main course of their thinking and acting by these passing incidents. When some trivial unpleasantness is observed they react emotionally as if it were the most important thing in the world. And, since they act in this way, it actually becomes the most important thing in the world to them for the time being. Not only do they feel as if the thing mattered permanently, but they may act that way.



Walter E. Myer

They are always being thrown off balance by little things. There are so many of these little things, these minor irritations and annoyances, that they may easily make a mess of one's life. They will do it in the case of a person who fails to see them in true perspective, who cannot push them aside.

More fortunate are those who possess the rare but precious quality of poise. They do not spend all their time analyzing and evaluating happenings, but they learn to judge quickly the relative bigness of the various facts and incidents of which their environments are composed. They have definite objectives, long-time goals. They measure the events of each day with these goals in mind. The things that really count, they give heed to. The trivialities, they treat as such. Poise of this kind is the essence of mastery.



ONE CARTOONIST'S VIEW of a pressing national problem

U. S. Housing Picture

Many New Houses Are Being Built, but Need Is Still Great; Controversy Arises over Government Program

HIGH up on the list of problems President Truman has challenged the Republicans to do something about at the present special session of Congress is the housing shortage. In the speech in which he accepted the Democratic nomination for President at his party's recent convention in Philadelphia, Mr. Truman singled out the lack of housing facilities as one of the most serious questions facing the American people today.

For the first time in this country's history, a million new homes may be built this year, but in the opinion of many experts and political leaders this is not enough. Citing the great number of ex-servicemen who need dwellings, the rapid increase in the population during recent years, and the large number of buildings that are no longer fit to live in, they say that at least a million and a half housing units must be erected each year for the next 10 years if the shortage is to be met.

Whether or not their estimate is correct, it is a fact that the nation's building industry produced 437,000 dwellings in 1946 and 831,000 in 1947, in addition to repairing houses already in existence and remodeling many others. In 1948, the one-million mark is expected to be reached if the rate of construction for the first six months

is increased only slightly during the remainder of the year.

Government officials point out that 450,000 new dwellings—including private homes and apartments—were begun between January and July and that it is very likely that the tempo of building will be stepped up in the following six months. These figures are very different from those for the war and pre-war periods, when construction was limited either by wartime conditions or by an economic depression.

A number of factors have made possible the progress now evident in the post-war building industry. For one thing, the country is still in a period of prosperity, and when general economic conditions are good the construction picture is likely to be good also. Another factor is that the men in the building business have developed—rightly or wrongly—greater confidence in the future as a result of the lifting of almost all controls on building equipment and materials. Like most other businessmen and industrialists, construction leaders feel that the nation can have a high level of production and employment only when business is left to itself and is not subject to governmental regulation and control.

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Italy Still Faces Serious Problems

Nation's Future Depends upon Government's Success in Bringing Recovery

LIKE the other Western European countries that are taking part in the European Recovery Program, Italy is making plans to use the funds she will receive from the United States to rebuild her industry and agriculture. However, she continues to be plagued with internal strife, and her people are far from being united in their views on national problems.

An indication of the explosive tension within the country is to be found in the events which followed the recent attempt on the life of Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communist party.

Togliatti, who has since recovered from his wounds, was shot by a Sicilian law student as he was leaving his office in the building of the Chamber of Deputies in the heart of Rome. When word of the attempted assassination was spread by press and radio, rioting and bloodshed broke out almost everywhere and the General Confederation of Labor, which is controlled by the Communists, called a general strike.

The walkout, however, was halted 24 hours after it was started, and the government of Premier Alcide de Gasperi could claim an important political victory over its Communist opponents. But this victory did not erase the fact that violence and bloodshed had taken place during the strike and had left scores killed and hundreds wounded. A deep rift, it was shown, still existed in Italy, with the radical forces ranged on one side and the moderates and conservatives on the other.

The gulf that divides the Communists and their supporters from all the other parties is based on a number of factors, the most important of which at the moment is the European Recovery Program itself. The Christian Democrats, the largest party now in the Italian Parliament, and their allies are strongly in favor of the ERP because they feel that it will help Italy and the other Western European countries to restore their economy.

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ALTHOUGH these two men are political opponents, Alcide de Gasperi (left) strongly deplored the recent attempt to assassinate Palmiro Togliatti (right).

U. S. Housing

(Concluded from page 1)

The government, however, has been in housing to some extent since World War I, when war workers required emergency living quarters and private industry was unable to provide them fast enough by itself. At the conclusion of that earlier global conflict, Washington withdrew from the private building picture and did not enter it again until the early 1930's. But then, because of the depression, home building plummeted to a dangerous low and it was widely felt that the government would have to take some action to stimulate construction.

President Hoover, accordingly, authorized the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make loans for low-rent housing projects. He also approved the bill which created the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Both measures proved to be a boon to the ailing building industry and construction began to pick up noticeably.

It was President Roosevelt, however, in the "New Deal" era, who placed the government squarely in the middle of the housing field. He lent the weight of his office to the theory that the federal administration should see to it that low-income groups receive adequate housing whenever private industry is unable to do the job.

A number of agencies were established by Roosevelt to increase housing construction and, particularly, to stimulate slum clearance, redevelopment of "depressed" city areas, and low-rent public housing. Among these, two of the most important were the Federal Housing Administration and the United States Housing Authority. The FHA, which is still in existence, has received the support of private builders as well as other groups of the population and it has been praised by business spokesmen as the type of activity that the federal administration should confine itself to.

The FHA insures the loans that banks and other financial institutions make for the purchase of a home or the erection of a large apartment development. In either case, it is easier for the borrower to obtain the loan because the government, through the FHA, guarantees that in the event of default, it will repay 80 or 90 per cent of the debt that had been incurred.

Agency Criticized

The United States Housing Authority, now incorporated into the Public Housing Administration, has made many loans to local public-housing agencies for slum clearance and has given subsidies amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars for low-rent housing developments. Unlike the Federal Housing Administration, it has been severely criticized by the building industry and others, who consider it "socialistic" and believe it is an unnecessary interference with free enterprise.

During World War II, governmental housing agencies were called upon to duplicate the job done in the First World War, but on a much larger scale. Faced with the great need that existed—especially for war workers' dwellings—they went into the con-



PERSONS WHO SUPPORT present building methods contend that the construction industry is doing a good job . . .

struction business itself. Before this, the government had merely provided the funds for the various projects and the actual work had been done by private industry.

Since the end of the war, the government has ceased erecting buildings other than federal structures, but it has continued its activities in behalf of the veterans and others who cannot get the housing they require.

At the present time, a controversy is raging over the housing bill that was passed by the Republican-dominated 80th Congress. The advocates of an extensive low-rent public-housing program agree with President Truman that it is "hasty patchwork" and an inadequate answer to the nation's housing needs. Those who support the bill contend that it is a proper enough piece of legislation and that it keeps

passed in the Senate only to be buried in committee in the House, is the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill.

This bill would do the following things: Set a goal of 15,000,000 homes to be built in the next 10 years; expand existing credit facilities so that private industry would have the funds to build, in the traditional manner, all but 500,000, of these homes; encourage investors who wish to build dwellings for low rentals; give governmental agencies the authority to insure a billion dollars' worth of loans for the purchase of houses during the next year; provide loans to local housing authorities for clearing away slum areas and making them suitable for new, modern housing; and authorize subsidies to local public-housing agencies for the construction of 500,000 dwelling units that would rent at very



. . . . THEIR OPPONENTS say slum areas, like this one near the nation's Capitol, show the need for a strong public housing program

the government from competing with private enterprise.

Under the terms of the measure, home construction will be stimulated by the financial aid to be given to banks that deal in mortgage lending and assistance will also be given, within certain limits, to nonprofit veterans' cooperatives.

Most opponents of the bill say that it does not go nearly far enough. The measure they support, which was

low prices for the benefit of the poorer families.

Opposition to the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill has come principally from real estate interests and private builders, who insist that the housing shortage is not so great as it has been made out to be and that in any event they are fully capable of meeting whatever need does exist for homes. Also critical of the bill and the philosophy behind it are many members of Con-

gress, who agree with the builders that the lack of housing has been exaggerated and that the government has no right to enter a field where private enterprise has proved it can do the job by itself.

Certain representatives and senators who voted against the bill favored all its provisions except one, and this was the clause enabling local public-housing agencies to provide 500,000 additional dwellings at low rentals for families with small incomes. It was contended that this type of public housing competed unfairly with private industry.

Other Arguments

Supporters of the measure made the reply that the low-income groups simply cannot afford to pay the rentals asked by many builders. It is said that if they remain in the sub-standard dwellings they now occupy, they will continue to be a source of social maladjustment and a problem for the communities in which they live. It is generally agreed, the argument continues, that poor housing breeds mental and physical illness. Much of our crime, for instance, can be traced to the slums.

The crucial debate that began in Congress during its last regular session has become an important issue in the election campaign. The "Truman Democrats," who have supported the proposals for a big housing program, accuse the Republicans of failing to meet the needs of the people, although the vote on the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill and other housing measures cut across party lines. One of the co-authors of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill, for instance, is Senator Taft, of Ohio, a leading Republican figure. It is a fact, however, that more Democrats than Republicans have supported this particular measure. The Republicans feel that it is another step in the direction of "government competition with industry."

War on Polio

A global war on infantile paralysis is now being planned. At a recent conference in New York, 1,000 delegates from 38 nations voted to set up an international congress to act as a clearing house for knowledge on the disease. Medical and scientific men everywhere will thus be kept abreast of the latest discoveries pertaining to the prevention and cure of infantile paralysis—or "polio," as the disease is sometimes known.

The establishment of a world congress is the latest effort in the concerted drive which has been made on polio in the last 10 or 12 years. During that time the annual March of Dimes has particularly centered attention on the disease and has raised millions of dollars to combat it. Although the riddle of polio has not yet been solved, great advances have been made.

Polio is usually a summer disease, appearing most often in late July, August, and September. The recent conference came at a time when an outbreak was taking place in North Carolina. An epidemic of more than 600 cases in that state again emphasizes the need for world action in tracking down the cause of this type of sickness and finding a means of preventing it.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"A Dam at Gibraltar," Science Digest.

It sounds like a dream, but engineers call it practicable. The idea is to dam the Mediterranean at Gibraltar to join Europe and Africa, create thousands of square miles of productive new land, harness hydroelectric power for the energy needs of two continents, irrigate the Sahara Desert, and make of North Africa a granary capable of feeding millions.

The Strait of Gibraltar is 8 to 13 miles wide, 1,200 feet deep at mid-channel. Since the Mediterranean loses far more moisture by evaporation than it gains from its tributary rivers, its waters must be replenished from the Atlantic. This means a steady flow through the Strait. Erecting a dam under these conditions—a dam high, broad, and strong enough to withstand oceanic pressures and endure for generations—would take many billions of dollars, untold man-hours, and very possibly 50 or more years in construction time.

Once built, the dam would drastically affect the entire Mediterranean region. The level of the Mediterranean would sink, and countries bordering that sea would grow. Hydroelectric power plants would make use of all the water allowed to flow in from the Atlantic.

The political problems as well as the engineering ones involved in this proposal are formidable. International cooperation obviously has not yet advanced to the point where countries would be able to agree on how to operate such a dam and share its benefits. At some future time, however, it may be possible for the world to give this project serious consideration.

"Veteran at Polls Is Citizen First," Dallas Morning News.

In any election, local or national, the veteran needs to do his own thinking and choosing. The smart veteran will not sell his vote to a candidate, a bloc, or a machine in return for promises of political favors. He will put his citizenship above his war service and vote for what he thinks is in the best public interest.

The ex-serviceman has lost none of his independence as an individual. He still can make up his own mind on voting in this free country. He should be skeptical of the candidate who tries to herd veterans off into a special group.

Congress has been generous with the veterans in caring for the disabled and in voting educational and other benefits to all who want them. There is no major veterans' issue between parties or between candidates. The veteran, as much as the nonveteran, can make an objective choice on peacetime issues and pick those candidates whom he thinks will make good public officials. If everyone will do that, our elections will be more representative and will give better results.

"Abolish the UN Security Council Veto?" A pro-and-con discussion, Rotarian.

José Arce of Argentina attacks the veto: The effectiveness of the United Nations is endangered by the fact that any one of the five big powers may thwart the will of the majority by using the veto. That is, the Council cannot take action which a great power disapproves.

The veto provision was put into the UN Charter over the very strong objection of many small and medium-sized nations. Advocates of the rule referred to it as the "principle of unanimity," and said it would encourage the great powers to reach agreement on important matters. In practice, the veto has done nothing to promote unanimity. Instead it has simply prevented action in many cases, and has become a serious stumbling block in the path of the United Nations.

The great powers should be willing to accept majority decisions. If some nations insist on retaining the veto in its present form, others should establish a new international organization in which no such special privilege is granted to any country.

Oscar Lange of Poland says the veto should be kept: It must be recognized as a fact that no decision of the United Nations can really be put into practice unless all the big powers agree to support it and are in agreement with it. The principle of unanimity



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Many small nations are strong advocates of a change in the voting rules of the UN Security Council. The present arrangement gives the Big Five a veto over important measures.

of the great powers in the Security Council gives legal expression to this basic fact. The brief but illuminating history of the United Nations reveals that wherever a decision—not only in the Security Council, but in any of the principal organs including the General Assembly—did not have the wholehearted support of all the great powers, it has not been carried out.

The United Nations should not be an organization through which some great powers seek to force their will upon others by means of a majority vote. Instead, its purpose should be that of giving the nations a chance to confer freely with one another and reach genuine agreements based on mutual consent. The veto helps in holding it to this purpose.

"Not Candidates but Policies Count in This Campaign," by Anne O'Hare McCormick, New York Times.

It is to be hoped that the United States Presidential campaign will not confuse our world policy during this critical summer. In a period that calls for sleepless vigilance, a political campaign, if it means six months of faltering or distracted administration of our external affairs, could defeat Democrats and Republicans alike because it would weaken our world position.

If the coming election is viewed in the international perspective, the big question is not who is the President of the United States, but what is the policy of the United States. The personality, character, and capacity of the Chief Executive are important, but not nearly so important as the continuity of the American course. Americans may ask what Truman or Dewey will do, but foreigners are interested only in what the United States will do.

In this crisis of history, Republican or Democratic victory matters less than that the American attitude to-

ward the world should appear firm and unmistakable throughout the campaign. The decisions to be made in the next few months will be momentous and our cardinal interest is that there shall never be an instant's doubt in any quarter that they express the national will and purpose.

"The Balkan Story," United Nations World.

The United Nations Balkan Commission, sent to investigate guerrilla warfare along the northern border of Greece, has accomplished a great deal. Mexico's Castillo Najera, head of the group, says, "Since the presence of the Commission in Greece, the consequences of frontier incidents have been reduced to a minimum, all parties being eager to avoid the Commission's discovering violations of the border." It is hoped that the UN General Assembly, after studying the Commission's report, will be able to bring the warfare to an end.

Observation teams, sent by the international group to various fighting areas in Greece, have, although unarmed, been constantly in danger and often under fire. Their only defense has been the display of large UN signs. Members of these observer teams had to be trained to extreme secrecy. If they disclosed any military information which they happened to pick up, they would be accused of spying.

Each person serving with the UN Commission had to acquire a new concept—that of loyalty to the United Nations, of which his own country is a part, instead of to his native land exclusively. It was not unusual for members of the international body to discuss this new idea far into the night. Eventually the most stubborn nationalists learned to understand that UN loyalty is not opposed to the true interests of their respective countries.



BURTON HOLMES FROM EWING GALLOWAY

ENGINEERS SAY a dam at the Straits of Gibraltar would stimulate farming and industry in the entire Mediterranean region

The Story of the Week

Wage and Price Boosts

When will the wage-price spiral stop its climb? A number of recent developments plainly indicate that it is continuing upward. "Third round" wage increases have been granted in a number of major industries, and the prices of some manufactured products have been raised. Economists agree that such a widespread upward movement of wages and prices is making it more and more difficult to prevent further inflation.

Perhaps the most notable of recent changes in the wage-price structure came when the U. S. Steel Corporation simultaneously announced price boosts in its product and a "third round" of wage increases for its employees. Since steel is used widely in many other of the nation's large industries, most observers feel that the upping of steel prices may be a forerunner to price increases in quite a number of fields.

According to government officials, "third round" pay boosts have now been granted to at least 10 million workers in various industries. The "first round" of postwar wage increases took place in the spring of 1946 and amounted to about 18½ cents an hour. The "second round," coming in the spring of 1947, brought an hourly pay raise of about 15 cents to large numbers of workers. The "third round" increase seems generally to be averaging between 10 and 15 cents an hour.

World Food Prospects

The world food outlook today is far better than it was a year ago. Both in our own country and abroad, harvest prospects are generally good. Unlike last year, weather conditions this

season have in most parts of the world been favorable for raising corn, wheat, and other basic food crops. Farm experts say that only a prolonged summer drought can alter the picture adversely.

In 1947 many countries were hard hit by abnormal weather. In Europe a harsh winter followed by spring floods and a midsummer drought cut the normal yield of cereal crops by one third. France had its poorest harvest in more than 100 years. As a result of these adverse conditions, the United States had to send tremendous amounts of foodstuffs abroad. The bright prospects this year may mean that exports to Europe can be substantially cut in the future.

Favorable though crop prospects are, observers think that they are unlikely to result in any immediate downward trend in food prices. They do not think the present crop will produce the superabundance that is necessary to lower price levels.

Watchdog Committee

For several weeks now, Congress' "watchdog committee" has been hard at work, checking on the progress of the European Recovery Program. Set up under the act which put the Marshall Plan into operation, the committee—whose correct title is the Joint Committee on Foreign Economic Cooperation—is composed of five senators, five representatives, and a small staff. Its job is to see that Congress is kept up to date on the workings of the program and to insure that the provisions of the recovery legislation are followed to the letter.

When our lawmakers passed the recovery bill last spring, they wrote a number of specific restrictions into the law. For example, the Economic

Cooperation Administration must obtain certain goods for stockpiling. All of ECA's employees must attest that they are not Communists. A certain amount of the goods sent abroad must be shipped in American vessels. It is up to the "watchdog committee" to check on these and other provisions of the law and to act generally as the agent of Congress.

Chairman of the group is Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, but much responsibility for the committee's work falls on Charles Dewey, a former congressman from Illinois, who heads the staff. A banker and one-time assistant secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Dewey recently went to Europe to make a personal check on the progress of the program. The committee is expected to make a complete report to Congress in January.

Baseball's Sluggers

As the baseball season goes into its last two months, fans are watching with interest the big-league race for individual home-run honors. Last year Ralph Kiner of the Pittsburgh Pirates and John Mize of the New York Giants finished well ahead of the field with 51 each, but this season they are receiving plenty of competition from a number of other sluggers.

Big Hank Sauer of Cincinnati, who came to the Reds this spring with a minor-league reputation as a hard hitter, is proving that he can also blast big-league pitching. The veterans Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals and Ken Keltner of the Cleveland Indians—always consistent batters—have been hitting for distance this year. Additional threats for home-run honors include, among others, Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees, Joe Gordon of the Cleveland Indians, Sid Gordon of the New York Giants, and three members of the Boston Red Sox—Ted Williams, Vern Stephens, and Bobby Doerr.

Although he is not one of the top men in the season totals, stocky Pat Seerey of the Chicago White Sox accomplished one of the outstanding batting feats of the season not long ago when he smashed four home runs in a single game. Seerey, who had been traded earlier in the season by the Cleveland Indians for failing to hit consistently, hit three of his round-trippers in successive innings. His fourth one, coming in the 11th inning, broke a tie and won the game for his team. The last man previously to hit four homers in a single encounter was Chuck Klein of the Philadelphia Phillies who turned the trick in a 10-inning game in 1936.

Meeting at Geneva

The United Nations Economic and Social Council is now holding its regular session in Geneva. The present meeting of this vital agency may be the most important one it has yet held. While the 18-member council in its earlier sessions dealt largely with organization and future procedure, it is now confronted for the first time with a number of major issues.

Foremost among the matters to be considered are the completed draft of the Declaration of Human Rights, a report on the recent Freedom of Information Conference in Geneva, and



MAJOR GENERAL Lewis B. Hershey is again directing the nation's selective service machinery.

the question of establishing a UN Economic Commission for the Middle East. Similar commissions for Europe, Asia, and Latin America are already set up and will make reports to the council at this time.

Complaints about working conditions in various parts of the world were expected to be the subject of much discussion, but, following spirited argument in one of the early meetings of the session, the council members voted to postpone further consideration of the matter until next year. Among the problems put over until 1949 were the charges of the American Federation of Labor that Russian occupation authorities in Germany and Austria had used slave labor.

Presiding over the sessions at Geneva is Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon. Educated in part at Harvard, Dr. Malik is also his country's minister to the United States. He was formerly head of the philosophy department at American University in Beirut, Lebanon.

Summer Listening

As the Presidential campaign gets under way in earnest, a number of national radio programs will devote increasing attention to the parties, the candidates, and the issues of the day. Such a program is "The People's Platform" which recently brought together in debate Owen Brewster, Republican senator from Maine, and Hubert Humphrey, Democratic mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Senator Brewster and Mayor Humphrey discussed the past and present stands of their parties on a number of important issues. Among the opinions expressed were the following:

Senator Brewster. To deal with the high cost of living, we must, first of all, control our exports. They must be confined to the surplus over and above what is needed by the American people.

Mayor Humphrey. To control high prices, we must have the helping hand of government. Many people are being priced out of the market.

Senator Brewster. Before the Taft-Hartley Act was passed, there were 395 work stoppages a month. Now the figure has been cut almost in half. The Taft-Hartley Act has generally succeeded.

Mayor Humphrey. The Taft-Hartley Act has not reduced work stoppages.



THIS YEAR'S record crops are badly needed

SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

They have been reduced by the willingness of employers and employees to get together—not by law.

A half-hour program, "The People's Platform" is heard each Sunday over stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Under the chairmanship of Dwight Cooke, experts debate controversial subjects. Consult your local papers for the time of the broadcast.

Dangerous Waters

Many countries are now cooperating in an effort to sweep the seas of explosive mines. All navies with facilities for finding and destroying these floating explosives have been carrying out a coordinated program designed to make the world's seaways safe for shipping. Agencies to collect and distribute information concerning mined waters have been set up in Honolulu and London.

The widespread mine-sweeping operations are, of course, an aftermath of World War II. At that time many of the strategic waters throughout the combat zones were sowed with high explosives as protection against enemy ships and submarines. Some of the mines explode when struck, while others are touched off by magnetic influences or by the sound or waves of a ship. Thus, the task of removing the mines is a delicate one.

Despite the care which has been taken to chart dangerous waters and to destroy explosives, more than 250 ships have been damaged by mines since the end of the war. Many of these have been sunk. Naval authorities say that it will take another year to complete mine-sweeping operations in all parts of the world, and even then, mines which have broken from their moorings may occasionally be found. Only last year such a mine, dating from the First World War, was discovered off New Jersey.

Hershey Heads Draft

Under the direction of Major General Lewis Hershey, draft boards throughout the nation are now setting up the machinery to register all young men 18 through 25 years of age. The oldest of the eligible men will sign up on August 30, and registration will continue by age groups through September 18. Between 9 and 10 million men are expected to register. It is believed that about 100,000 more will become eligible each month thereafter as they reach their 18th birthdays.

The task of assembling the nation's manpower is by now a familiar one to General Hershey. Appointed Director of Selective Service for the first

time in 1941, he set up the organization which registered 36 million men and sent some 10 million of them into the wartime forces. His reappointment as draft director was recently announced by President Truman.

A native of Indiana, Hershey came from a farm family and taught in a country school as a young man. He was a school superintendent in 1914 when he resigned his position to go to the Mexican border with the National Guard. Soon after his return, the United States became involved in World War I. Hershey went to France with his outfit, and at the end of the war decided to make a career of the Army.

A big, red-headed man, General Hershey lives with his wife near Washington, D. C. In the recent war the family was represented in three of the services. One of the General's sons served in the Navy while the other was with the Marines. General and Mrs. Hershey also have two daughters.

Aid to Iceland

When the European Recovery Program was authorized, Congress specified that 20 per cent of American aid should be in the form of loans. Recently Iceland became the first nation to receive assistance of this kind. The little North Atlantic republic was granted a loan of about 2½ million dollars to help it build up its fisheries.

Although comparatively small, the grant is expected to be of great importance to Iceland. About 18 per cent of the people of that country are engaged in fishing, and fish products make up the largest part of the island's exports. Iceland's fisheries lead the world in catching cod, and they rank high for other kinds of fish.

The American loan will be handled through the Export-Import Bank. It will bear interest at three per cent and will be payable in 10 years. Iceland is expected to start payments within three years from the time she starts to draw the money.

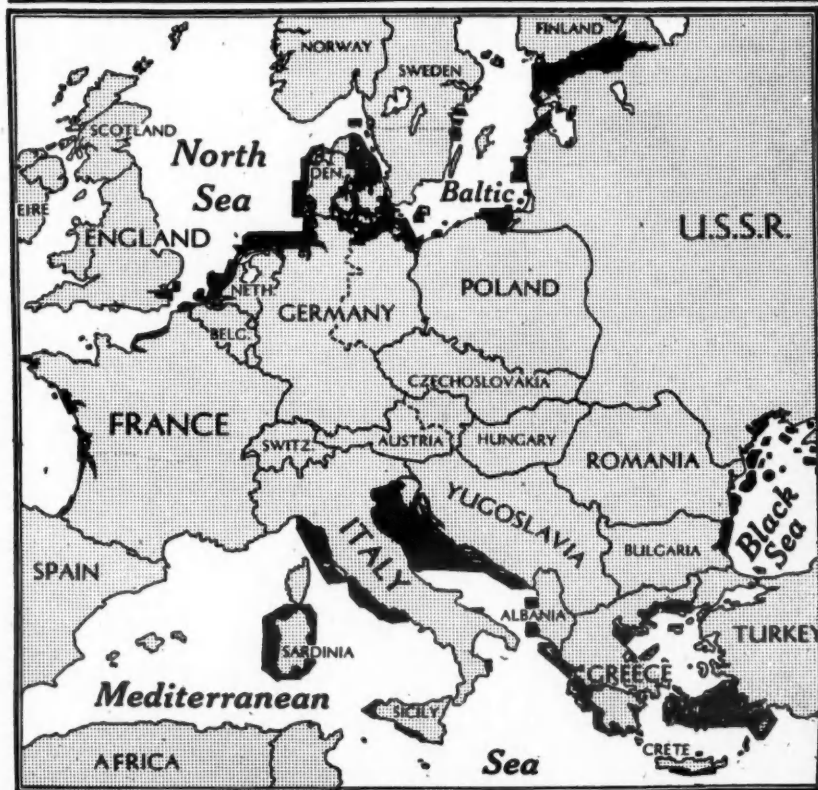
The United States and several other nations are now carrying on negotiations which may result in similar loans. In addition, many outright gifts are, of course, being made to Marshall Plan participants. Economic Cooperation Administrator Paul Hoffman recently reported that funds to promote European recovery are now being distributed at the rate of more than 100 million dollars a week.

New Philippine Capital

Quezon City has replaced Manila as the capital of the Philippine Islands. President Elpidio Quirino recently signed a bill authorizing the change, but the government may not move its headquarters for about a year. A good deal of construction must first be carried out.

The new capital lies about 10 miles northeast of Manila. Formerly the country estate of a wealthy family, it was picked out in 1937 by the late Philippine President Manuel Quezon as the future site of the government. Mr. Quezon called it New Manila, but after he died in 1944, the islands' legislature renamed it in honor of the deceased leader.

Founded by the Spanish in the 16th century, Manila had been the capital city of the Philippines for many years. In the last decade the city's population—now approaching 2 million—has more than doubled. The move of the



STILL A PERIL. The world's sea lanes are not yet free from the danger of mines laid during the war. The blacked-in sections on the maps show the areas where mines are being found. Work to clear channels for shipping in these areas is continuing.

government to Quezon City is expected to relieve much of the congestion. Many of Manila's buildings were destroyed during the war.

Popular Aluminum

On the banks of the Mississippi River near Davenport, Iowa, the Aluminum Company of America is now completing a giant, new plant made of its own product—light, shining aluminum. Covering 52 acres of land, the mill has aluminum wall panels, doors, window sashes, and roofs. Except for the concrete foundations and the steel framework, practically the whole plant is made of the silvery metal. Homes for workers are being built of aluminum, too.

In constructing the mill, the company used more than 6 million pounds of its product, but once the giant plant is in full operation a similar amount will be turned out every three

weeks. The machinery is designed to produce the widest aluminum sheets in the world. Much used in construction work, the sheets measure more than eight feet in width.

The use of this metal in constructing mills and houses marks the latest chapter in the aluminum "success story." Less than 100 years ago the metal cost \$545 a pound, and even after an inexpensive method of producing it was discovered, aluminum failed for a time to catch on with the public. It first became popular when made into pots and pans. Its uses gradually increased, and today trains, airplanes, and dozens of appliances are made of the metal.

At present the demand for aluminum far exceeds the supply, and industry leaders are planning to build new mills when further waterpower becomes available. The metal now costs 15 cents a pound.



TED WILLIAMS, of the Boston Red Sox, is in the race for home-run honors in the major leagues.

Problems Ahead for Italy's Government

(Concluded from page 1)

omies to full health. The Communists and "left-wing" Socialists oppose the ERP on the grounds that it is an attempt by America to control the destiny of Italy for the sake of "big business" and "American imperialists."

During the recent elections for Parliament, the ERP superseded all other issues as the question of supreme importance to the average Italian voter. Premier de Gasperi told the people that by voting for his Christian Democratic Party, they were in effect casting their ballots for assistance from America as represented in the European Recovery Program. If they voted for the Communist-led Popular Front, he declared, they were rejecting the ERP and expressing preference for the Soviet Union, which was strongly supporting Italian communism.

Tempers grew short during the campaign and charges and countercharges were tossed about up to the days of the election itself on April 18 and 19. The United States became involved in the contest because of its position as leader of the western democracies. First, it issued a statement to the effect that if the Italian people voted the Communists into office, they could not expect any aid from America under the ERP or any other program.

Further to influence the voting, our country joined Great Britain and France in asking Russia to agree to the return of Trieste to Italy. The

Free Territory of Trieste was formerly part of Italy, and when it was taken away under the peace treaty and placed under United Nations control the Italians protested vigorously.

Powerful influence was wielded, also, by the thousands of Americans of Italian descent who wrote letters to their kinsmen in Italy denying Communist accusations that America wanted to control their country and urging them to show their confidence in the Western democracies by voting for the Christian Democrats.

Many Italians were affected in their thinking by the events that had taken place just a few weeks previously in Czechoslovakia, where the Communists had taken over the government.

Democratic Victory

All these things had their effect on the Italian people and as a result they voted two to one in favor of the Christian Democrats and other non-Communist parties. Italy was thus assured a democratic government patterned after those of the western countries. But political observers noted in the elections a significant fact that they think may yet have an important bearing on the future of the Italian peninsula. This is the fact that despite the warnings of de Gasperi and the Roman Catholic Church, which also urged its members not to vote for the Communist-controlled Popular Front, virtually one third of those

who went to the polls cast ballots for the Communists and their allies.

In trying to analyze the meaning of this situation, students of Italian history say that economic and social conditions must be taken into account. Since the end of the war, they point out, the Italian people have clamored for social and economic reforms. They have demanded that big estates be broken up and distributed among the seven million peasants who own no land at all. They want the severe inflation that has wracked the country controlled. They have sought to change the laws so that the value of the nation's currency could be kept from shrinking any further than it has. They want wage increases for the low-income groups, better working conditions for industrial workers and agricultural laborers, improved benefits for the one and a half million unemployed, and a public works program to enable those out of work to have paying jobs again.

The Italian people, these observers also point out, want the wealthy classes in their society to assume a greater share of the burden of reconstructing the country and to accept higher taxes on their money and other property. There has always been an extremely wide gap between rich and poor in Italy, and it has grown even wider since the war. According to some American correspondents, many Italians are bitterly remarking these days

that "things were better under Mussolini." The Italian Social Movement, a fascist-like organization, has been gaining followers.

Because of these unsettled conditions, it is said, the Communists still retain the support of a large number of people. The Christian Democrats, it is pointed out, have also appealed to the "little people" of Italy and, as a matter of fact, could not have become the strongest single party in Parliament if they had not received the votes of millions of working-class Italians. Now that they are in power, the Christian Democrats must produce results if the people are not to turn to the Communists for help.

Premier de Gasperi and his Cabinet are hoping that the aid they will receive under the European Recovery Program will enable them to keep the promises they made last spring for social and economic reform. According to the provisions of the program, Italy will get a little over 700 million dollars during the next 15 months, and, if Congress is willing, similarly large sums in the following three years.

Like the other "Marshall Plan" countries in Western Europe, Italy requires much assistance because of the havoc wrought by the war. Her industry, located in the north, escaped great damage, but her production was upset by the fighting, her agriculture seriously affected, and her financial structure weakened.

The Italian economy is also suffering from its continued need for a large amount of imports. For many years, the country has been incapable of producing the necessary grains to feed the people or the raw materials to run industry, and it has had to depend on the importation of these items from abroad.

Today, it needs still another "import" if it is to become once more a healthy member of the family of nations. This is the American dollar, which Italy, like almost all other countries, requires in order that her plants may run and her people eat.

Political Strikes

Premier de Gasperi has said that one more change is required if Italy is to recover from the war and move ahead toward a degree of prosperity. This, he says, is special legislation to outlaw "political" strikes. He claims that the many walkouts last winter and the general strike called recently as a result of the attempted assassination of Togliatti were instigated for political motives and had no legitimate economic ends in view. It is expected that de Gasperi will submit such a strike-control bill to the Chamber of Deputies in the near future and that he will fight to have it enacted in the face of opposition from the Communists and "left-wing" Socialists.

There is also a possibility that many moderate Socialists, who have up to now supported the Christian Democratic government, will join the leftist groups in their stand. The tradition of a worker's freedom to strike is still strong among labor organizations and their sympathizers, and if the Communists refrain from further tie-ups of industry, the Premier may find himself in difficulty when he introduces the kind of bill he proposes.



A Comparison of the Major Party Platforms

Excerpts Permit Evaluation of Stands Taken on Important Issues

On this page we present a point-by-point comparison of the Democratic and Republican platforms to show at a glance the stands which the two major parties have taken on important issues.

Foreign Policy

Republican. Pledges to cooperate with other peace-loving nations to restore their economies and their human rights and freedoms. Insists on efficient, business-like administration of all foreign aid.

Supports the United Nations. Recommends that the veto in the UN Security Council be abolished and that armed forces be provided for the United Nations. Approves of regional defense arrangements between the United States and other countries.

Pledges full recognition and aid to the state of Israel, "subject to the letter and spirit of the UN charter." Expresses deep interest in maintaining the freedom of China. Advocates world-wide limitation and control of arms.

Supports international commerce and a reciprocal trade system which includes adequate protection of U. S. industry and agriculture. Declares that all international agreements must be ratified by Congress. Promises to invite Democrats to continue the bipartisan foreign policy.

Democratic. Pledges a sound, humanitarian administration of foreign aid. Supports the United Nations. Favors curtailment of the veto power in the Security Council, any necessary changes on the Charter, the provision of armed forces for the United Nations, and the grant of a loan to the UN for construction of a headquarters.

Supports regional defense arrangements between the United States and other countries. Advocates full recognition and aid to the state of Israel. Calls for effective world-wide control of weapons, including the atomic bomb. Supports international commerce and a reciprocal trade system. Urges adequate armed forces to protect the vital interests of the U. S.

Inflation

Republican. Blames the present administration for not using effectively the powers it possesses to combat inflation. Promises an attack on the basic causes of inflation by reducing the high cost of government, encouraging production, achieving a sound currency and reducing the public debt.

Democratic. Says the Republican-controlled Congress is responsible for inflation because of failure to pass the President's anti-inflation program. Promises to "curb the Republican inflation."

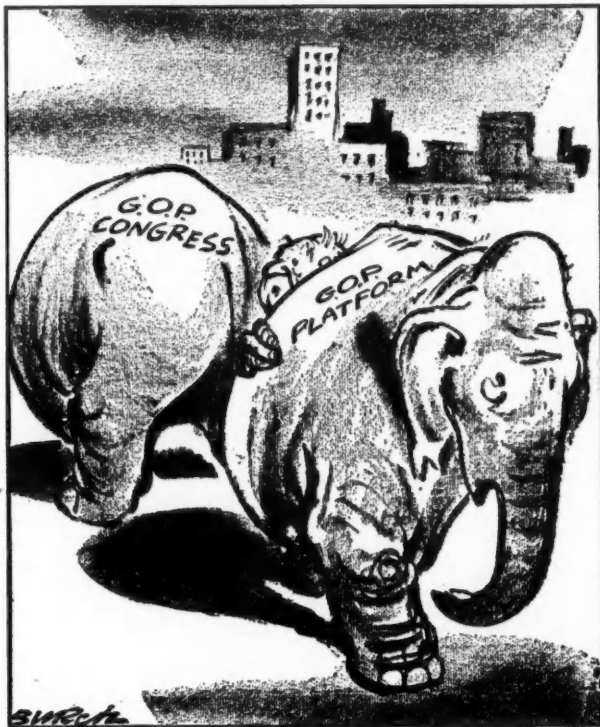
Civil Rights

Republican. Favors anti-lynching and fair-employment legislation. Recommends ending the poll tax. Opposes racial segregation in the armed forces.

Democratic. Favors anti-lynching and fair-employment legislation. Recommends ending the poll tax. Opposes racial segregation in the armed forces.

Housing

Republican. Recommends federal aid to the states for local slum clear-



Somebody's out of step



Now if I only had some nails

NEITHER PARTY ESCAPES THE JIBES OF CARTOONISTS THESE DAYS

ance and low-rent housing programs only where private enterprise or the states and localities cannot do the job.

Democratic. Blames the Republicans for lack of housing legislation. Pledges comprehensive housing legislation, including slum-clearance and low-rent housing projects initiated by local agencies.

Labor

Republican. Says collective bargaining is an obligation as well as a right. Strikes must not be allowed to threaten the national health and safety. Pledges constant study to improve labor legislation in the light of changing conditions.

Democratic. Advocates outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Says it is probably, in some provisions, unconstitutional. Calls for laws to establish free collective bargaining, to determine the rights of employees and employers, and to assist unions in keeping their membership free from Communists.

Taxation

Republican. Proposes tax reductions so that new capital will come forth to start new industries, thereby increasing production and combatting inflation.

Democratic. Calls for tax reduction whenever it is possible without harming the nation's economy. Says relief should be given to low-income families against whom, it charges, the Republican-sponsored tax bill discriminated. Opposes a general federal sales tax.

Agriculture

Republican. Proposes a long-term program including the following: soil conservation; the guaranteeing of reasonable prices to farmers; encouragement of family-sized farms; support of the principle of truly farmer-owned cooperatives; and sound rural electrification.

Democratic. Recommends the guar-

anteeing of reasonable prices to farmers, a soil-conservation program, and the development of export markets for surplus farm products. Pledges encouragement for farm cooperatives and family-sized farms.

Communism

Republican. Promises to enforce the existing laws against Communists and to enact any more needed to check their activities.

Democratic. Assures continued enforcement of laws against subversive activities, observing at all times the traditional freedoms of speech, press and honest political activity. Favors strengthening laws against Communists whenever necessary.

Natural Resources

Republican. Favors the development of the nation's water resources for navigation, flood control, and power. Supports the conservation of natural resources and the stockpiling of strategic materials. Urges full development of forests. Calls for a reclamation program with full protection for the rights of states.

Democratic. Pledges the development of natural resources. Promises funds for flood control. Urges the development of hydroelectric power and its distribution over publicly owned transmission wires.

Social Security

Republican. Recommends the extension of the federal social security program and the increase of benefits to the fullest extent without harming our system of private enterprise. Calls for strengthening federal-state health and hospital programs.

Democratic. Favors increasing old-age benefits by at least 50 per cent and reducing the eligibility age for women from 65 to 60. Recommends the extension of social security to all workers not now covered. Supports a national health program for expanded

medical research, medical education, and for building more hospitals.

Education

Republican. Favors equality of educational opportunity and the expansion of educational facilities.

Democratic. Deplores the failure of Congress to appropriate any funds for assistance to the states for their educational needs. Advocates federal aid for education administered by and under the control of the states.

Business

Republican. Urges small business be aided by strong anti-monopoly action, the relaxation of business controls, protection against discrimination, correction of tax abuses and less competition from the government.

Democratic. Pledges to enforce anti-trust laws and to strengthen laws where necessary. Assures a program to promote competitive business.

Veterans

Republican. Favors adjustment, on a cost-of-living basis, of benefits to veterans and to the families of those who died in the service of their country. Demands good-faith compliance with veterans' preference in the federal service and efficiency in the Veterans Administration. Pledges the finest medical care for veterans.

Democratic. Promises to continue and improve the national program of benefits for veterans and their families. Says the level of veterans' benefits must be constantly raised to keep up with the rising cost of living.

Atomic Energy

Republican. No plank.

Democratic. Pledges to continue the principle of nonpartisan civilian administration of atomic energy, and the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes through free scientific inquiry.

Science News

The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Palestine, is searching for ways to push back the desert, which now covers more than one-third of the Holy Land. The Jewish organization is trying to discover new uses for plants that can be raised in Palestine's dry and salty sand. It is, moreover, seeking economical methods of irrigating large desert areas. The Institute plans to expand its activities as soon as conditions in the Holy Land become more peaceful. It is named for Chaim Weizmann, a chemist by profession and a veteran leader in the movement to set up a Jewish state in Palestine.

★ ★ ★

The United States Public Health Service is planning to build a large hospital and laboratory at Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, D. C. When completed, about three years from now, the clinic will have room for 500 patients. These people—victims of ailments for which cures are still being sought—are to be sent to Bethesda from all parts of the United States. It is expected that doctors and technicians at the hospital will, while trying to heal them, learn new facts about cancer, heart disease, mental illnesses, and other ailments which still baffle medical science. No patient will be admitted for treatment of a disease for which a satisfactory cure is known.

★ ★ ★

A new type of automobile jack, invented by Frank Sragal of Detroit, may eventually eliminate much of the hard work involved in changing tires. Sragal's idea is to attach permanently to the frame of the car four hydraulic jacks—one near each wheel. These devices can be operated through a simple system of pedals and valves. Thus a driver can lift any wheel of his car off the ground without going to the trouble of placing an ordinary jack under the axle or bumper of the vehicle.

★ ★ ★

Scientists are looking for a way to rid Guam and several other Pacific islands of giant African snails. These creatures, about six inches long, were



WIND TUNNEL at Moffett Field in California. Highly secret aeronautical experiments are carried on at the field.

brought to the islands during the war by Japanese troops, who used them for food. Now the snails are multiplying rapidly and are severely damaging crops and wild vegetation. Black beetles which attack and kill the pests have been found in Kenya, East Africa. These insects are being carefully studied, and some of them may before long be sent to the snail-infested islands.



J. STROM THURMOND (left) and Fielding Wright are standard bearers of the rebellious Southern Democrats. They hope to take several states from the regular Democratic ticket in the November elections.



PHOTOS BY ACME

States' Rights Ticket

Candidates Backed by Some Southern Democrats Are Fighting Federal Legislation Proposed by Party Leaders

THE group of southern Democrats which held a convention in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 17 to nominate candidates for the coming Presidential election is now seeking further support among the voters of the South. The candidates nominated by this new party—officially named "The States' Rights Democrats"—were Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina for President and Governor Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi for Vice President.

Governor Thurmond is 45 years old and a veteran of the Second World War. On May 10 he delivered the keynote speech when the states' rights Democrats came together for their first gathering.

Governor Wright, 53 years old, was the first Southern governor to attack President Truman's civil rights stand when he did so in his inaugural address on January 20. In February he called for a revolt of Southern governors against the administration.

The meeting in Birmingham was the result of the inclusion in the Democratic Platform of a strong civil rights plank. The adoption of this plank by the Democratic convention in Philadelphia on July 14 caused the delegates of Mississippi and half of the delegates of Alabama—35 in all—to get up and walk out of the meeting before the roll call for nominating the candidates. A few hours later, Governor Wright issued a call for Southern Democrats to meet in Birmingham and nominate their own candidates.

Thurmond's Position

Since his nomination, Governor Thurmond has insisted that the disagreement between his group and the national Democratic leadership is not over racial segregation or white supremacy in the South. The disagreement, he maintains, is over the right of the federal government to pass laws regulating the conduct of the states on such issues. "We are interested," he said recently, "solely in protecting the rights of states to manage their own internal affairs, which is a fundamental guaranty of the Constitution of the United States."

This new organization has two principal aims. The first is to fight in Congress any federal civil rights legislation. The second is to impress upon

the Democratic party the fact that the support of the traditionally "Solid South" cannot be taken for granted. This can be brought about if President Truman is defeated in the coming election because of the withdrawal of Southern support. Governor Thurmond and his supporters believe that if they win the 181 electoral votes of the Southern and border states, the defeat of President Truman will be assured.

Anti-Truman Drive

The drive to reduce the Truman vote in the South is already under way. This month the state conventions of Mississippi and South Carolina are being assembled again to pledge support to Governor Thurmond and his running mate. At a rally in Houston, Texas, next week, both candidates will formally accept their nominations.

The new party is faced with a serious problem of organization because many of the recognized leaders of the Democratic party in the South, such as Edward H. Crump of Tennessee, Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, Herman Talmadge of Georgia, Governor Earl Long of Louisiana and others, declined to take part in the convention, and did not even send any representatives to the meeting. These leaders feel that whatever is done about the states' rights question "must be done through and by the official Democratic organization in each respective state."

Furthermore, newspaper editorials in key Southern cities have not indicated a great deal of enthusiasm for the new political group, although many have expressed sympathy with the states' rights philosophy.

On October 1 the group will assemble again to discuss the course of action to be taken in the election. Experienced political observers believe that if no further support is forthcoming for the organization by then, it is possible that steps will be taken to return to the regular Democratic fold. If, on the other hand, Presidential electors have been obtained in other states, a determined effort may be made to strengthen the group further before the election.

(In its next issue, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER will present a discussion of Henry Wallace's Progressive Party.)

Study Guide

U. S. Housing

1. How many houses do the experts think must be built each year for the next 10 years if our needs are to be met?
2. About how many dwellings were constructed in 1947?
3. Why did the federal government undertake to build houses during World War I?
4. What happened to the home-building industry during the early 1930's?
5. Briefly describe the work of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).
6. Discuss the work of the United States Housing Authority.
7. List briefly the main provisions of the housing bill passed by the 80th Congress at its regular session.
8. Outline the provisions of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill that was introduced in Congress, but was not passed.
9. Give two arguments for and two against the Taft-Ellender-Wagner measure.

Discussion

1. Outline your ideas on the part the government should play in building homes, and give reasons in support of your program.
2. What do you think are the strongest arguments that can be made against the ideas you have outlined?
3. Do you think the housing bill passed by the 80th Congress is adequate, or would you have been in favor of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner measure had you been in Congress? Give your reasons.

Italy

1. How did Italian Communists and their followers react to the attempt upon Palmiro Togliatti's life?
2. In the Italian elections last spring, what was the question of supreme importance to the average voter?
3. What steps did the United States take in an effort to win votes for the anti-Communists in those elections?
4. What was the outcome of the elections?
5. List some social and economic reforms for which the Italian people have been clamoring.
6. How much assistance is Italy expecting to receive through the Marshall Plan?
7. What view does Alcide de Gasperi take toward "political" strikes?

Discussion

In your opinion, what is the most important social or economic change needed in Italy today? Give reasons for your answer.

Miscellaneous

1. Are prices of manufactured goods likely to go down within the next few months? How about those of farm products?
2. What work is the "watchdog committee" of Congress doing in connection with the Marshall Plan?
3. What project has been suggested for the Straits of Gibraltar?
4. Give one argument for retaining the UN veto in the Security Council, and one argument for changing the voting rules so as to do away with the veto.
5. Why are some of the world's sea lanes still dangerous for shipping?
6. What is the new capital of the Philippines?
7. Who is directing the nation's selective service system?

Pronunciations

Alcide de Gasperi—ahl-ché'dé dé gah' spē-ré
 Palmiro Togliatti—pahl-mir'ō tall-yaht'ti
 Genoa—jen'ō-ah
 Palermo—pah-lur'mō
 Trieste—trē-est'
 Chaim Weizmann—kah-yim vits'mahn
 Elpidio Quirino—ēl-pē'dyaw kē-rē'naw
 Quezon—kā'sawn